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Thron'd with the monarchs of the blest abode!
Such the reward a life like his obtains,
The praise of angels, and the smiles of God!

Larne, Oct. 1809. M'ERIN.

A MICHAELMAS RIDDLE.

"*Da nuces pueris.*".....OVID.

DIC mihi nomen animalis,
Plumatique, et bipedalis;
Quod, ultimum iter, urbem latum,
Michaelis festo perdit fatum.
Cujus pennæ alent multos,
Juvant doctis, terrent stultos;
Plumæ formant id quod Hymen,
Dat devotis; et lenimen
Defessis duro est labore,
Ægritudine, dolore;
In quo vitam subibamus,
Et ærumnas terminamus.

NEMORENSIS.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Langsdorff to Dr. Noehden, dated from Port St. Peter and Paul, in Kamtschatka, the 6th of June, 1805.

WE left Kamtschatka in the month of September, 1804, and sailed for Japan; a country that has scarcely been visited in a scientific view, except by Kæmpfer and Thunberg. All who have any opportunity of going thither will find, that the former did more with regard to the history and description of the country than would seem possible; and the latter has published such a flora of it, as no one can expect to equal.

On proceeding to Japan we had planned many fine schemes and formed the most flattering expectations. But on our arrival at Nangasacki, while we were treated in the most honourable manner, we were prisoners in the lodgings assigned us; and were guarded with the utmost strictness, being deprived of all communication with the inhabitants, except a few Dutch interpretors; and at length when the Emperor's answer arrived from Yeddo, we were loaded with presents and very politely dismissed.

Thus we could hardly think of making excursions in quest of subjects of natural history. Besides we were at Japan only during the winter months, from October 1804, till April 1805. We were furnished gratis with provision, and every thing that could be necessary to supply our wants; but we were not allowed to purchase the smallest trifle. Fortunately, ichthyology, one of my favourite branches of natural history, is closely allied with the demands of the kitchen. Accordingly I took care to desire the man, who daily brought provision to our state prison, to supply us with as many different kinds of fish as the season and the markets could furnish. In this way I was enabled to procure, during the last three months, about four hundred of the rarest fish in the Indies, and among them were about an hundred and fifty different species. I transmit to Mr. Blumenbach, for the present, a short account of such as are already known; and I hope another time to send him one of the new species.

Our return from Japan to Kamtschatka was do doubt one of the most interesting voyages that can now be made. We ran down and examined the north-west coast of Japan, which was hitherto unknown. We determined with precision the position of the strait of Sangoar. We reconnoitred all the west coast of Matzumai. The north part of this island, though under the government of the Japanese, is not inhabited by them, but by another people, known in Europe by the name of long-haired *Curibes*,* who call themselves *Aecnocs*. The part of Matzumai inhabited by them is called Yeso, whence the islands of Yeso and Matzumai are frequently confounded with each other. The Peak of Lamanen

* See Blumenbach de Generis Humani varietate nativa, ed. 3. p. 29.